

# Health & Community Services for People with Disabilities

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## Mission

To assist persons with developmental disabilities in accessing services and to work with service providers and communities to develop a system of community-based supports based on the needs and desires of these individuals to help them reach their full potential.

## Summary of Activities

Through the Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitative Services (DDARS) at the **Family and Social Services Administration**, the Bureau of Developmental Disability Services (BDDS) provides assistance to individuals with developmental disabilities that is directed towards enabling individuals to reach their fullest potential. Assistance is also provided to family members and guardians in the form of respite services which are very valuable in providing relief to stressed caregivers and in diverting possible moves towards institutional services for the person with a developmental disability.



BDDS works with service providers and communities to develop and provide a system of community-based supports using the person-centered planning process to identify the preferences and hopes of the individual to meet their needs. BDDS encompasses eight district offices, which collectively serve people in all 92 counties. The Indianapolis central office provides leadership, direction, and oversight of the statewide program.

Some of the services provided by BDDS include: diagnosis and evaluation, day services (habilitation, community, and vocational), supported employment follow-along, the epilepsy program, and residential programs. Home and community-based residential options include the family subsidy program, supported living, foster care for children and adults, and Medicaid waiver services. Medicaid waivers allow Indiana to provide a variety of home and community-based services funded through Medicaid to individuals who would otherwise require the level of care provided in an intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded (ICF/MR). Multiple funding streams finance community and residential services for individuals with developmental disabilities including Medicaid, Social Services Block Grant (Title XX), and various state line item appropriations. As of September 30, 2003, 8,693 people were served on Home and Community Based Medicaid Waivers. This total includes 334 people served on the Autism Waiver, 4,988 people served on the Developmental Disabilities Waiver, and 2,997 people served on the Support Services Waiver. In addition, 2,876 people were served on State Line-Item Supported Living, 3,467 people were served in group homes, and 410 people were served in large private ICF/MR.

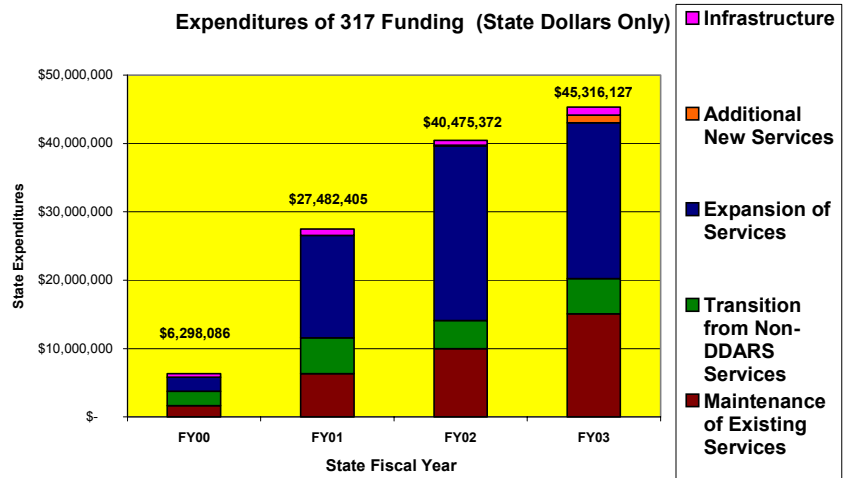
BDDS is committed to assuring that persons with developmental disabilities are supported in a manner that protects them from harm and ensures they reach their fullest potential. Significant efforts have been made to assure the health and safety of individuals residing in the community. These include: 1) development of standards for all providers of supported living services and supports; 2) annual Indiana State Department of Health surveys of group homes and private ICFs/MR; 3) a standardized process for reporting incident report and a formalized complaint process; 4) case management functions which are shared by the local BDDS offices and case managers; and 5) a formal process to review providers of supported living services and supports.

## External Factors

Community and residential services for individuals with developmental disabilities have changed dramatically over the years. With the closure of the New Castle and Northern Indiana State Developmental Centers and the implementation of the "317 Plan" there has been increased emphasis on individuals with developmental disabilities and their families being provided choices about community living and community activities. This shift to community-based services has had a positive impact on the lives of many individuals. The Department of Justice and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are overseeing states' compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). ADA-related lawsuits across the country have focused national attention on these issues. Specific attention is being focused on ensuring that individuals reside in most inclusive environment and that choice is being provided to individuals.

## Evaluation and Accomplishments

During the 2001-2003 biennium, new capacity was added to serve 2,140 people with developmental disabilities. These included 766 new individuals served by the DD Waiver or state line-item supported living funds; 142 new individuals served by the Autism Waiver; 777 new individuals served by the Support Services Waiver; and 455 individuals who moved from nursing facilities, state operated large private ICF/MRs, and small ICF/MR group homes as a result of the conversion of institutional capacity to home and community based services.



The Bureau of Quality Improvement Services was created to provide overall oversight of FSSA-DDARS programs dedicated to people with developmental disabilities. The Bureau is committed to assuring that individuals with developmental disabilities reside in the least restrictive environment with the first alternative being community-based services. Community based services allow for opportunities that reflect the individual's unlimited value and capacity to grow and contribute to the community in which they reside. Staff have been added to the DDARS programs to conduct the tasks necessary to support all BDDS field functions and ensure that quality assurance mechanisms are in place to evaluate and monitor the health and safety of individuals residing in the community.

## Plans for the Biennium

Over the next biennium, community and residential services for people with disabilities will continue to look toward most inclusive living arrangements. In addition, BDDS will refine programs and processes to further ensure the health and safety and improve the quality of life of each individual with a disability.

